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after virtual abdication of the throne, was formally deposed, and replaced by his son Sultan Ahmad Riza, a lad of eleven years of age, with a regent to hold the reins of government.

The narrative of these events is consecutively told, chapter by chapter, accompanied by a presentation of original documents now accessible or specially furnished to the author by his friends in Teheran and Tabriz, and supplemented by an extensive use of material from the European press. A full account, with remarkably frank criticisms, is given of the agreement which was entered into between England and Russia in 1907 in regard to Persian affairs. In the comments here added, a particular point is justly made with respect to the manner in which this *entente* is viewed when seen through Persian eyes; and much that is instructive on the subject of the Turkish Revolution of 1908 is brought out. A series of appendixes is included to give the basic principles of the Persian Constitution and the fundamental laws that were adopted in the National Assembly, together with comprehensive translations of Persian documents and letters in some fifty pages at the close of the volume.

The value of the work is enhanced by a large number of photographs of the persons who have been most actively engaged in the entire movement, and there are added numerous other illustrations that serve to make clearer the historic story which is told. The work is one of first-hand information and of first-rate importance by an authority who may be considered in a way as better qualified than any one in the West to speak upon the subject of this eventful change in the East.

A. V. WILLIAMS JACKSON.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Essays in American History. Dedicated to Frederick Jackson Turner. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1910. Pp. vii, 293.)

No instructor in the gentle art of historical investigation can take up this volume without a new thrill of satisfaction in his vocation; one which carries with it the hope of winning the lasting gratitude of such choice spirits as the lure of scholarship selects out of the host of students who merely touch and go. This opportunity to grapple "with hoops of steel" the student friends, who else pass on, forget, and are forgotten, is no mean reward for the hours of patient conference and helpful quest. As Professor G. S. Ford says in his graceful introduction, this volume "preserves and transmits, by its very existence, that part of a scholar's work which is hardest to measure and record—his power to kindle his spirit and his love of scholarship in other men". This power Professor Turner possesses in a degree unsurpassed by any of his contemporaries, and no one of them will have any other emotion than pleasure that this fine tribute comes to him from the enkindled hearts of his former students.

The ten essays treat of some phase of Western or Southern history, except the last two, Professor W. S. Robertson's article "The Beginnings of Spanish-American Diplomacy", and Professor P. S. Reinsch's essay entitled "Some Notes on the Study of South American History". Mr. Robertson's excellent study considers "the most significant efforts of the Spanish-American insurgents to initiate diplomatic relations with foreign nations from 1810 to 1816, with special attention to Venezuela". Mr. Reinsch, in his illuminating and suggestive comments upon the method that should be pursued in the study of South American history, points out where the true interest of South American history lies. "Any presentation which confines itself to the changing aspects of political ascendancy, to the shifting modifications of legal forms and institutions . . . must necessarily lack depths and contact with the realities of social development." The real interest will be found in a study "of the conditions imposed upon social development by the physical environment of South America". "The interaction of physical, moral, and intellectual forces is nowhere illustrated in a greater variety of aspects than in South America." Like Professor Turner's essays on Western history, this essay is a revelation of the possibilities of the subject and an inspiration for the research student.

Of the six essays in Western history, one is a brilliant interpretative article by Professor C. L. Becker with the simple, uninspiring title "Kansas". Nothing in this volume is written with such literary charm, such keen and humorous insight, and such philosophic grasp of the subject-matter. The author has cultivated Professor Turner's own field, and has reaped a new and varied harvest. Every student of Western history, every scorner of the rampant, populist West, ought to read this charming essay.

Two of the studies in Western history deal principally with territory beyond the Mississippi. Of these, one, entitled "Some Activities of the Congregational Church West of the Mississippi", is written by Professor Lois Kimball Mathews, and is an interesting and scholarly by-product of her valuable book the *Expansion of New England*. The other, "Oregon Pioneers and American Diplomacy" by Professor Joseph Schafer, is an admirable study of the effect which the pioneer movement into the Northwest had upon the Oregon boundary dispute. The detailed knowledge of conditions in Oregon, Mr. Schafer clearly shows, "interpreted to the British as nothing else could, the attitude of the American people on this question—the government's adamant stand against concession, the impatience, not to say insolence of Congress, and the widespread disposition through the country . . . to force the issue even at the hazard of war". In one of the remaining Western history essays Professor J. A. James gives us a fuller and clearer study than we have had hitherto of the work of George Rogers Clark, after the taking of Vincennes. Another essay by Dr. S. J. Buck is a most enlightening study of "Independent Parties in the Western States, 1873–

1876". After suggesting a number of causes for their failure, he concludes "The fundamental cause for the failure of the movement, however, seems to have been . . . the innate political conservatism of the bulk of the American people." The last of these Western history studies is Professor H. C. Hockett's "Federalism and the West", which is a most interesting study of the fate of the Federalist party in the frontier states. "Its conservative and aristocratic temper . . . and its peculiarly commercial basis, unfitted it for expansion into regions where only society of a primitive agricultural type flourished." Nevertheless, "the Federalists erred in believing the societies of east and west to be permanently dissimilar. They were so only during the immaturity of the west." The two Southern history studies are "Virginia and the Presidential Succession, 1840-1844", wherein Professor C. H. Ambler studies closely the struggle in Virginia to secure the nomination of Van Buren in 1844, pointing out the reason of the failure, and a closely related study, "The Southern Whigs, 1834-1854", by Professor U. B. Phillips. Lack of space forbids us to comment upon this latter essay as it deserves, but, in brief, it contains the essence of a vast amount of intensive study, involving the plotting, county by county, of election returns, and of census studies of industrial interests. It is one of the most valuable studies in a volume wherein the scholarship is everywhere of so high a character as to make it a fitting tribute "to Frederick Jackson Turner, teacher, scholar, friend".

C. H. VAN TYNE.

The Buccaneers in the West Indies in the XVII. Century. By C. H. HARING. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1910. Pp. viii, 298.)

THIS is the first book to attempt critical treatment of a subject obscured by much loose writing and cheap romance. Historians of the West Indies have either been too susceptible to the picturesqueness of the buccaneers, or contented themselves with a display of civic disapproval of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. The object of this volume, according to the author's prefatory statement, is, first, to give an authentic account of the great West Indian buccaneers and pirates, and, second, "to trace the policy pursued toward them by the English and French Governments".

On the first count there is little fault to be found with the reconstruction of events. From the voluminous correspondence in the *Calendar of State Papers* between the Secretaries of State and the English governors in the Indies, supplemented by manuscripts in the Record Office and the British Museum, and by the rather scanty yield of French archives, the story is traced clearly and with a good deal of entertaining detail. Much new material—particularly for the English side of the story, which receives the lion's share of attention—has been brought to light by Mr.